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LETTER DATED 28 DECEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter, dated 26 December 1996, addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, Mr. Mohammed Saïd Al-Sahaf, on the subject of the attempted assassination of the Iraqi President's son, Mr. Uday Saddam Hussein, by the Al-Da'wah Party, based in Iran and supported by the Government of that country.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Annex

Letter dated 26 December 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to advise you that, on 12 December 1996, an assassination attempt was carried out against the Chairman of the Iraqi Olympic Committee and son of the President of the Republic of Iraq, Mr. Uday Saddam Hussein. I also wish to draw your attention to the interview on British radio on the morning of 15 December 1996, during which the military leader of the Al-Da'wah Party, Ali Baghdadi, claimed responsibility for the attempt on behalf of his party, stating that it had been under preparation for more than four months

It is a well-known fact that the Al-Da'wah Party is based in Iran and that the Government of that country helps it to carry out terrorist acts abroad, which constitutes a violation of the United Nations Charter and of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, under which "every State has the duty to refrain from organizing, instigating, assisting or participating in (...) terrorist acts in another State or acquiescing in organized activities within its territory directed towards the commission of such acts, when (they) involve a threat or use of force". This principle is also set forth in the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, adopted by the General Assembly in 1994.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq, while lodging a strong protest with respect to the Iranian Government's sheltering and support of the aforementioned Al-Da'wah Party, requests you to intervene with the Government of Iran and urge it to hand over the perpetrators of this crime so that they may be tried and punished. Alternatively, Iran itself may try them in accordance with the rules of international law concerning terrorist activities.

I should like to note that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq has addressed to the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad a further letter, a copy of which is attached, regarding the terrorist act which is the subject of the present letter.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

Enclosure

Note verbale dated 28 December 1996 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Baghdad

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Baghdad and has the honour to refer to the heinous crime committed in Baghdad on 12 December 1996, namely, the attempted assassination of Mr. Uday Saddam Hussein, Chairman of the Iraqi Olympic Committee and son of Mr. Saddam Hussein, President of the Republic of Iraq, and to the interview broadcast on British radio on the morning of 15 December 1996, during which the military leader of the Al-Da'wah Party, Ali Baghdadi, claimed responsibility for the attempt on behalf of his party, stating that it had been under preparation for more than four months.

It is a well-known fact that the Al-Da'wah Party is based in Iran and that the Government of that country helps it to carry out terrorist acts abroad, which constitutes a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, under which "every State has the duty to refrain from organizing, instigating, assisting or participating in (...) terrorist acts in another State or acquiescing in organized activities within its territory directed towards the commission of such acts, when (they) involve a threat or use of force". This principle is also set forth in the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, adopted by the General Assembly in 1994.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq strongly protests the Iranian Government's sheltering and support of the aforementioned Al-Da'wah Party, and requests it to hand over the perpetrators of this terrorist crime so that they may be tried and punished. Alternatively, Iran itself may try them in accordance with the rules of international law concerning terrorist activities. Should the Islamic Republic of Iran fail to pursue this course, the only one consonant with its international obligations, it will bear sole international responsibility.

In the hope that Muslims will join forces for truth and justice and raise God's banner in the face of oppression and tyranny, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Baghdad the assurances of its highest consideration.